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T O P S E C R E T

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GENERAL

1. North Atlantic Council meetings--At the close of the 15 May sessions in London of the current North Atlantic Council, Secretary of State Acheson made the following summary of remarks by the various Western foreign ministers: (a) there is need for concerted effort in the economic and defense spheres to strengthen the Atlantic community; (b) it is important to make a coordinated and intensified psychological presentation of the Western view; (c) organizational solutions of Western problems should not duplicate or confuse existing machinery; and (d) there is both unanimous feeling that the UN must be supported and universal concern over the danger of the Soviet boycott.
2. Views on Schuman's Franco-German proposal--US Ambassador Bruce in Paris characterizes French Foreign Minister Schuman's proposal to pool French and German coal and steel resources as "the most imaginative and far-reaching approach that has been made for generations to a settlement of the fundamental differences between the two nations." Bruce points out that many objections will be raised against the plan, but a consideration of possible difficulties should not be permitted to dampen the enthusiasm the proposal merits. Bruce considers it important that the scheme not lose its "present momentum" and that negotiations to implement the proposal begin as quickly as possible.

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(CIA Comment: CIA anticipates some opposition to the Schuman proposal will develop in France, Germany, and the UK. The French Government, however, will be able to overcome immediate French objections if it can convince Parliament that the plan will not result in serious French unemployment, German predominance in the arrangements, and the disadvantages of cartelization.)

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